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ABSTRACT

Based on data from the Family Foster Care Reimbursement Survey for 1981, tables in this report present the level of the 50 states' reimbursements for family foster care. Categories of data reported include age of child in foster care, basic monthly rate, clothing allowance, personal and incidental allowance, and special needs allowance (on a continuum ranging from mild to very severe). (RH)

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# FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT

Results of A National Survey
Conducted by the

Region VI Adoption Resource Center
Center for Social Work Research
School of Social Work
The University of Texas at Austin

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The Family Foster Care Reimbursement Survey was initiated by a request from the New Mexico Department of Human Services in late 1981. The Department, then undergoing a review of its own foster care rates, was interested in having comparative data with which to support its rate-setting process. The Survey was completed by telephone contact with each of the fifty central state social services agencies. In some cases, follow-up documentation was provided by the state.

While the Center believes the data from the Survey to be essentially accurate, it is crucial to note that various reimbursement policies across state boundaries makes a nationwide comparison somewhat problematic. Differing definitions of service categories further complicated this process.

Basic monthly rates were computed for states which used daily reimbursement schedules. The three categories to the right of the basic monthly rate (clothing allowance, personal and incidental allowance, and special needs allowance) reflect the major payment schedules in use by the states. As can be seen from the notes to the tables, some states compute clothing payments on a yearly basis; while others do so on a monthly basis. Still others provide one-time clothing allowance only.

In the category of special needs allowance, there are three predominant modes of payment. These are exemplified by the states of Florida, Georgia, and Kentucky. Florida utilizes a sliding scale that is not tied to the basic monthly rate and floats at a level commensurate with the level of special care required. States with this type of payment system seem to be using a "market approach" to moving children

out of restrictive institutional settings into family foster care settings. Wisconsin's special efforts at deinstitutionalization are reflected in a sliding scale that extends up to $1,500/month. Georgia uses a sliding scale as a supplement to the basic monthly rate, but makes no attempt to categorize levels of special need. To an extent then, these two sliding scale systems reflect the application of a criterion based on the individual case in determining rates.

A third common system of setting rates through a defined system of categorizing the special needs of the child to be placed. Kentucky uses this approach with three categories, mild, moderate, and very severe. The state of Mississippi has only one payment rate in the special needs category, namely "disabled child" which is defined as any child needing assistance in age appropriate self-care tasks. Thus, the reader needs to exercise caution in interpreting the meaning of special needs payments across the states represented.

In spite of certain ambiguities in the way states compute and report family foster care rates, the data reflected in the tables which follow can serve as useful baseline estimates of how states pay for family foster care programs. Within the limitations noted above, it is hoped that the data reported herein provide a national picture of reimbursement for family foster care services.

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region I

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | | | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conn. | 0-3 | $171.00 | Determined | | $213.00 | | $265.00 | |
| | 4-5 | 173.00 | on an | | 215.00 | | 267.50 | |
| | 6-11 | 178.00 | Individual | | 220.00 | | 272.50 | |
| | 12+ | 181.00 | Basis | | 233.00 | | 275.50 | |
| Maine | 0-4 | $152.00 | $ 15/mo. | | $178.00 | $203.00 | $241.00 | |
| | 5-11 | 152.00 | 22/mo. | | 178.00 | 203.00 | 241.00 | |
| | 12+ | 152.00 | 32/mo. | | 178.00 | 203.00 | 241.00 | |
| Mass. | 0-6 | $125.70 | $180/yr. | $42.90/mo. | | | | |
| | 7-12 | 182.70 | 204/yr. | 42.90/mo. | | | | |
| | 13+ | 239.70 | 275/yr. | 42.90/mo. | | | | |
| N. H. | 0-5 | $109.00 | | | Up to Additional $50.00/month | | | |
| | 6-12 | 121.00 | | | | | | |
| | 13-18 | 170.00 | | | | | | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region I (continued)

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R. I. | 0-12 | $160.00 | $100[1] | | Up to an additional $240.00/month | |
| | 12+ | 196.00 | 100[1] | | | |
| Vermont | 0-5 | $150.00 | $ 15[1] | | | |
| | 6-12 | 175.00 | 20[1] | $ 5.00/mo. | | |
| | 13+ | 210.00 | 25[1] | 10.00/mo. | | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region II

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild | | Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N. J. | 0-5 | $160.00 | See Note 2 | | $200.00 | $235.00 | $275.00 | |
| | 6-9 | 171.00 | See Note 2 | | 211.00 | 246.00 | 286.00 | |
| | 10-14 | 189.00 | See Note 3 | | 229.00 | 264.00 | 304.00 | |
| | 15+ | 200.00 | See Note 2 | | 240.00 | 275.00 | 315.00 | |
| New York | | | | | | | | |
| Metropol- | 0-5 | $183.00 | See Note 4 | | | | | School exp., |
| itan area | 6-11 | 216.00 | | | | | | special lessons, |
| | 12+ | 248.00 | | | | | | all medical exp. |
| Urban | 0-5 | 167.00 | See Note 4 | | | | | School exp., |
| Upstate | 6-11 | 201.00 | | | | | | special lessons, |
| area | 12+ | 232.00 | | | | | | all medical exp. |
| Remainder | 0-5 | 164.00 | See Note 4 | | | | | Rate determined on |
| of N. Y. | 6-11 | 198.00 | | | | | | individual case |
| | 12+ | 230.00 | | | | | | basis |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region III

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delaware | 0-4 | $141.00 | See Note 5 | | $248.00 | |
| | 5-9 | 166.00 | See Note 5 | | 275.00 | |
| | 10-14 | 197.00 | See Note 5 | | 305.00 | |
| | 15-17 | 226.00 | See Note 5 | | 327.00 | |
| D. C. | 0-11 | $253.00 | $125[1] | | Up to an additional $750/month | |
| | 12+ | 265.00 | $150[1] | | | |
| Maryland | 0-5 | $126.00 | $14.00/mo. | | $165.00 $254.00 | |
| | 6-11 | 132.00 | 20.00/mo. | | 173.00 259.00 | |
| | 12+ | 132.00 | 25.00/mo. | | 178.00 264.00 | |
| Pennsylvania - Figures are given for two representative counties: | | | | | | |
| Alleghany | 0-4 | $217.50 | See Note 6 | | $327.00/mo. $510/mo. | |
| County | 5-11 | 235.50 | See Note 6 | | | |
| | 12+ | 255.00 | See Note 6 | | | |
| Pike Co. | 0-18 | $270.00 | $450/yr. | $8-20/mo. | $420.00/mo. | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region III (continued)

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Virginia | 0-4 | $128.00 | | | | |
| | 5-12 | 161.00 | | | | |
| | 13+ | 203.00 | | | | |
| West Va. | 0-4 | $110.00 | | | Up to $280.00/month | |
| | 5-8 | 125.00 | | | | |
| | 9-12 | 140.00 | | | | |
| | 13+ | 180.00 | | | | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region IV

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | 0-2 | $153.00 | | | Up to an additional $50.00/month, and medical costs not covered by medicaid. | |
| | 3-5 | 162.00 | | | | |
| | 6-12 | 171.00 | | | | |
| | 13-18 | 180.00 | | | | |
| Florida | 0-11 | $184.00 | $50[1] | | $190.00 sliding scale $206.00 | $100/yr. |
| | 12+ | 233.00 | 70[1] | | 244.00 255.00 | School allowance |
| Georgia | 0-1 | $130.00 | | | Up to an additional $134/month | |
| | 2-5 | 136.50 | | | | |
| | 6-11 | 142.50 | | | | |
| | 12-15 | 157.50 | | | | |
| | 16+ | 163.50 | | | | |
| Kentucky | 0-5 | $142.50 | | | $165.00 $225.00 $330.00 | |
| | 6-12 | 157.50 | | | 180.00 225.00 330.00 | |
| | 13+ | 172.50 | | | 195.00 225.00 330.00 | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region IV (continued)

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miss. | 0-2 | $123.00 | $ 60[1] | | $175.00 for disabled child | one-time medical or psych examination $50.00 - medical $35.00 - psych |
| | 3-6 | 123.00 | 100[1] | | | |
| | 7-12 | 123.00 | 160[1] | | | |
| | 13+ | 123.00 | 240[1] | | | |
| North Carolina - Presently $130/month | | State pays 50% up to the existing range is --- $200/month. | | $135/month | Up to an additional $150/month | |
| South Carolina | 0-6 | $115.00 | $ 57/yr. | | No special funding above S.S.I. | |
| | 7-12 | 130.00 | 57/yr. | | | |
| | 13+ | 150.00 | 57/yr. | | | |
| Tenn. | 0-3 | $110.00 | $115[1] | | $185.00 | |
| | 4-6 | 120.00 | 170[1] | | 195.00 | |
| | 7-13 | 150.00 | 230[1] | | 225.00 | |
| | 13+ | 180.00 | 345[1] | | 255.00 | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region V

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Illinois | 0-1<br>2-4<br>5-8<br>9-11<br>12+ | $171.00<br>175.00<br>185.00<br>195.00<br>212.00 | | | Foster placement of special needs children is contracted to agencies which receive up to $700/month. Average payment to family is about $300/month. | Special care up to $200/month |
| Indiana - | The state pays up to 50% of administrative costs only. Average payment = $168.30/month. | | | | | |
| Michigan | 0-6<br>7-12<br>13-18 | $178.50<br>220.50<br>291.00 | | | $360 to $900/month - no age criteria | Special school and medical expenses determined on individual basis |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region V (continued)

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minn. | 0-3 | $141.00 | $ 64[1] | | | |
| | 4-8 | 179.00 | 95[1] | | | |
| | 9-11 | 197.00 | 126[1] | | Up to an additional $488/mo. | |
| | 12-14 | 235.00 | 221[1] | | | |
| | 15-18 | 258.00 | 253[1] | | | |
| Ohio | 0-5 | $175.00 | See Note 7 | $ 0.00 | | School allowance |
| | 6-9 | 185.00 | See Note 7 | 3.00 | | $4.00/month |
| | 10-11 | 185.00 | See Note 7 | 3.00 | Up to $300.00 | 4.00/month |
| | 12 | 185.00 | See Note 7 | 5.00 | | 7.00/month |
| | 13 | 195.00 | See Note 7 | 5.00 | | 7.00/month |
| | 14+ | 195.00 | See Note 7 | 5.00 | | 7.00/month |
| Wisc. | 0-4 | $139.00 | | | Up to $342/month | |
| | 5-11 | 180.00 | | | Special program to deinstitutionalize or | |
| | 12-14 | 202.00 | | | avoid institutionalization: up to $1500/ | |
| | 15-18 | 231.00 | | | month. | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region VI

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arkansas | 0-5 | $111.00 | $ 60[1] | | 90% of S.S.I. up to $300/month | |
| | 6-11 | 122.00 | 90[1] | | | |
| | 12-14 | 140.00 | 120[1] | | | |
| | 15+ | 150.00 | 125[1] | | | |
| Louisiana | 0-6 | $181.00 | | | Policy under development | |
| | 7-12 | 211.00 | | | | |
| | 13+ | 241.00 | | | | |
| New Mexico | 0-5 | $196.00 | See Note 9 | $ 4/month | $345.00 | School expenses $ 7/month |
| | 6-12 | 207.00 | See Note 9 | 14/month | 355.00 | 10/month |
| | 13+ | 218.00 | See Note 9 | 21/month | 365.00 | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region VI (continued)

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma | 0-6<br>7-12<br>13-18 | $150.00<br>180.00<br>210.00 | Clothing is purchased and distributed by state | | Determined on an individual basis | |
| Texas | 0-9<br>10+ | $210.00<br>240.00 | | | Up to $360/month | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region VII

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Iowa | 0-5 | $143.00 | $100[1] | | Up to an additional $85.00/month | |
| | 6-11 | 187.00 | 100[1] | | | |
| | 12-15 | 231.00 | 100[1] | | | |
| | 16-20 | 242.00 | 100[1] | | | |
| Kansas | 0-4 | $143.00 | | | An additional $50 to $150/month | |
| | 5-11 | 200.00 | | | Contracted agencies receive up to $445/month. | |
| | 12+ | 255.50 | | | No information on the amount paid to the family. | |
| Missouri | 0-5 | $119.00 | $ 50[1] | | On an individual basis | |
| | 6-12 | 150.00 | 50[1] | | | |
| | 12-18 | 167.00 | 50[1] | | | |
| Nebraska | 0-18 | $210.00 | $150[1] | | Up to an additional $60.00/month | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region VIII

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colorado | 0-11 months | $144.00 | $ 56[1] | | Up to an additional $131/month | |
| | 1-3 | 196.00 | 56[1] | | | |
| | 4-10 | 225.00 | 56[1] | | | |
| | 11-14 | 252.00 | 56[1] | | | |
| | 15-21 | 271.00 | 56[1] | | | |
| Montana | 0-12 | $250.00 | | | Additional $25/month. If S.S.I. eligible, then additional $44/month. | |
| | 12+ | 275.00 | | | | |
| North Dakota | 0-4 | $199.00 | | | Up to an additional $50/month. | Irregular expenses, school, etc. up $300/yr. |
| | 5-12 | 237.00 | | | Up to an additional $100/month | |
| | 13+ | 286.00 | | | Up to an additional $150/month | |
| South Dakota | 0-6 | $155.00 | | | $235.00 $321.00 | |
| | 7-14 | 190.65 | | | 273.00 389.00 | |
| | 15-18 | 229.71 | | | 310.00 406.00 | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region VIII (continued)

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Utah | 0-11 | $182.59 | Up to $152[1] | | $237.46 | $372.42 | Special services |
| | 11+ | 207.08 | Up to $152[1] | | 308.45 | 412.30 | up to $30/item |
| Wyoming | 0-13 | $255.00 | | | Up to $600/month | | |
| | 13+ | 285.00 | | | | | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region IX

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 0-11 | $178.00 | See Note 8 | $ 4.40/mo. | $267.00 sliding scale $550.00 | Up to $90/yr. for school supplies |
| | 12-18 | 225.00 | See Note 8 | 11.00/mo. | | |
| California. Figures are given for two representative counties: | | | | | | |
| Shasta County | 0-6 | $222.00 | $ 50[1] | | | School allowance $100/yr. |
| | 7-12 | 236.00 | 50[1] | | | |
| | 13+ | 265.00 | 50[1] | | | |
| Los Angeles County | 0-4 | $269.00 | $ 71[1] | $ 9.00/mo. | $507.00 sliding scale $1,061.00 | School expenses $ 63/year |
| | 5-8 | 310.00 | 117[1] | 9.00/mo. | no age criteria | 63/year |
| | 9-11 | 343.00 | 117[1] | 9.00/mo. | | 93/year |
| | 12-14 | 373.00 | 156[1] | 9-18/mo. | | 123/year |
| | 15+ | 410.00 | 166[1] | 18.00/mo. | | |
| Hawaii | 0-5 | $150.00 | | | On an individual basis | Infant care $9.50/month |
| | 6-12 | 180.00 | | | | |
| | 13-18 | 232.00 | | | | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region IX (continued)

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nevada | 0-4 | $224.00 | $ 65/yr. | | Not available | School expenses |
| | 5-12 | 224.00 | 90/yr. | | | $ 9/month |
| | 13+ | 268.00 | 112/yr. | | | 18/month |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region X

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska by region - | | | | | | |
| South | 0-4 | $352.00 | $180[1] | | $573.50 | |
| | 5-11 | 389.00 | 180[1] | | 573.50 | |
| | 12+ | 465.00 | 180[1] | | 573.50 | |
| North East | 0-4 | $404.00 | $180[1] | | $658.50 | |
| | 5-11 | 447.00 | 180[1] | | 658.50 | |
| | 12+ | 534.00 | 180[1] | | 658.50 | |
| North West | 0-4 | $483.00 | $180[1] | | $786.30 | |
| | 5-11 | 534.00 | 180[1] | | 786.30 | |
| | 12+ | 638.00 | 180[1] | | 786.30 | |
| West | 0-4 | $466.00 | $180[1] | | $754.00 | |
| | 5-11 | 515.00 | 180[1] | | 754.00 | |
| | 12+ | 616.00 | 180[1] | | 754.00 | |

FAMILY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT
BY DHHS REGION

Region X (continued)

| State | Age | Basic Monthly Rate | Clothing Allowance | Personal & Incidental Allowance | Special Needs Allowance/Month (Mild----------Very Severe) | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Idaho | 0-5 | $100.00 | $25.00/mo. | $ 3.00/mo. | $75.00 $200.00 | |
| | 6-12 | 110.00 | 25.00/mo. | 3.00/mo. | | |
| | 13-18 | 137.00 | 25.00/mo. | 9.00/mo. | | |
| Oregon | 0-5 | $162.00 | Up to $215[1] | | Up to an additional $600/month | |
| | 6-13 | 190.00 | Up to $215[1] | | | |
| | 14+ | 257.00 | Up to $215[1] | | | |
| Washing- | 0-5 | $114.50 | $19.27/mo. | $17.68 | Up to an additional $119.85/month | |
| ton | 6-11 | 148.70 | 19.27/mo. | 17.68 | | |
| | 12+ | 179.70 | 22.97/mo. | 17.68 | | |

NOTES -

1. One-time payment.

2. 0-5 yrs. One-time payment of $110 plus yearly allowance up to $198. 6-9 yrs. One-time payment of $175 plus yearly allowance of up to $285. 15 yrs. and over. One-time payment of $200 plus yearly allowance of up to $393.

3. 10-13 yrs. One-time payment of $175 plus yearly allowance of up to $285. 14 yrs. One-time payment of $200 to yearly allowance of up to $393.

4. 0-1 yrs. $192/yr. 1-5 yrs. $219/yr. 6-11 yrs. $307/yr. 12-15 yrs. $408/yr.-boys, $540/yr.-girls. 16 and over $447/yr.-boys, $714/yr.-girls.

5. 0-4 yrs. One-time payment of $77 plus monthly allowance of $4.10. 5-9 yrs. One-time payment of $86 plus monthly allowance of $8.10. 10-14 yrs. One-time payment of $97 plus monthly allowance of $14. 15-17 yrs. One-time payment of $100 plus monthly allowance of $14.

6. 0-4 yrs. One-time payment of $214 plus yearly allowance of $238. 5-11 yrs. One-time payment of $270 plus yearly allowance of $378. 12 and over. One-time payment of $322 plus yearly allowance of $456.

7. 0-5 yrs. One-time payment of $60 plus monthly allowance of $8.00. 6-9 yrs. One-time payment of $60 plus monthly allowance of $8.00. 10-11 yrs. One-time payment of $60 plus monthly allowance of $9.00. 12-13 yrs. One-time payment of $60 plus monthly allowance of $9.00. 14 yrs. and older. One-time payment of $60 plus monthly allowance of $10.

8. 0-11 yrs. Monthly allowance of $11-16 plus annual amount of $300. 12-18 yrs. Monthly allowance of $22.00 plus annual amount of $300.

9. 0-5 yrs. Monthly allowance of $16 plus annual amount of $41-60. 6-12 yrs. Monthly allowance of $20 plus annual amount of $41-60. 13 yrs. and over. Monthly allowance of $25 plus annual amount of $41-60.